

IN THE TITLE:

The title has beed replaced by the following title:

PRINTER WITH GEAR FITTING MEMBER FOR
MOUNTING DRIVE AND IDLER GEARS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the heading between paragraphs [0009] and [0010] as follows:

~~Disclosure~~ Summary of the Invention

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

~~A diagram~~ Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the printing portion of a thermal printer for which the present invention is applied. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a main frame, from which all members except for a drive unit have been removed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the drive unit. Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the drive unit. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a conventional drive transmission mechanism.

Amend the heading between paragraphs [0013] and [0014] as follows:

~~Best Mode for Carrying Out~~ Detailed Description of the Invention

Please amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

In this mode, the motor and the individual parts of the gear transmission mechanism are not directly mounted on the main frame 10, but instead these parts are first preassembled to form ~~to be assembled as~~ the drive unit 20, and thereafter, the ~~assembly is to be~~ drive unit it attached in a preassembled state to the main frame 10. This is one difference from the conventional printer.

Please amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

The drive unit 20 ~~includes: the~~ includes idler gears 23, 24, for transmitting the rotational force provided by ~~the a~~ a rotary motor 21 to the platen roller; and ~~the a~~ a gear fitting member 22, which is a support member to which the idler gears 23, 24 are to be fitted.

Please amend paragraph [0023] as follows:

Specifically, the gear fitting member or support member 22 (referred to hereafter as gear fitting member) is made of a zinc alloy by die casting, and gear support shafts 22a, ~~22a~~ 22b, for supporting the idler gears 23, 24, are integrally formed. The idler gears 23, 24 are inserted and respectively fitted on the gear support shafts 22a, ~~22a~~ 22b of the gear fitting member 22. And in a state wherein the drive gear 21a is inserted into a storage portion 22c and engages the idler gear 24, the motor 21 is secured to the gear fitting member 22 by screws (not shown) at two locations. As illustrated in Figs. 3-4, the gear fitting member 22 has two sections that are offset from one another, the motor 21 being mounted to one section and the gear support shafts 22a, 22b extending from the other section. As a result, the drive unit 20 is provided. At this time, the distal end of the gear support shaft 22b is fitted into an opening in the form of an engagement groove 25a that is formed in a motor flange (connecting flange) 25 and supports the idler gear 24 and also

positions the motor 21. Further, since the motor is closely attached to the gear fitting member 22, heat generated by the motor 21 is released through the gear fitting member 22. Thus, it is preferable that the gear fitting member 22 be formed of a material having a superior heat release property.

Please amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

When the preassembled drive unit 20 having the above structure is secured, by screws 26, to the right side wall 10R of the main frame 10, the distal end of the gear support shaft 22a is fitted into the engagement groove formed in the main frame 10 and supports the idler gear 23. Furthermore, when the platen roller is to be attached to the main frame 10 and the lock arm member 13, the coupled gear of the platen roller engages the idler gear 23, so that the rotation force provided by the motor 21 is transmitted to the platen roller.

Please amend paragraph [0028] as follows:

The invention provided by the present inventor has been specifically explained based on the illustrated mode. However, the present invention is not limited to the above described mode, and various modifications are available. For example, in the above mode, a zinc alloy is employed for the material of the gear fitting member 22. However, a magnesium alloy, a titanium alloy or another alloy that has a superior heat release property and an appropriate rigidity can also be employed. It is preferable that

an alloy material be employed while taking heat resistance and heat releasing properties into account. However, the gear fitting member 22 can also be formed of a resin material, and in this case, the effects, such as the improvement of the assembly efficiency, can also be obtained.